

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /115 W

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P R 180903Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9583

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 16791

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IN, SN

SUBJECT: NEW OIL WELL

REF: SINGAPORE 5202 (NOTAL)

1. INDICATIONS OF OIL HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IN AN EXPLORATORY WELL BEING DRILLED AT BHUANA IN THE JAISALMER REGION OF RAJASTHAN STATE. A LOCAL OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION (ONGC) OFFICIAL INFORMALLY TOLD US THAT THE WELL HAS BEEN DRILLED TO A DEPTH OF ABOUT 3,500 METERS. FURTHER DRILLING AND TESTINGS TO DETERMINE THE POTENTIAL AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WELL, ARE NECESSARY BEFORE ADDITIONAL DETAILS CAN BE PROVIDED. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THE PRESENCE OF OIL AT BHUANA WAS FOUND IN JURASIC-AGE ROCKS WHICH ARE OLDER THAN THE TERTIARY ROCKS WHERE OIL HAS NORMALLY BEEN STRUCK IN INDIA.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE ONGC'S INTENSIVE EFFORTS IN RAJASTHAN DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, UNTIL THE BHUANA STRIKE, NO OIL FIND OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE WAS FOUND. THE ONGC IN FEBRUARY DECIDED TO
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POSTPONE DRILLING OPERATIONS IN RAJASTHAN AFTER COMPLETION OF THE

PLANNED DRILLING AT BHUANA BECAUSE THE COST AND LOGISTICS OF
EXPLORATION IN THE AREA WERE NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE RESULTS.
IF THE BHUANA DISCOVERY PROVES TO BE COMMERCIALY VIABLE, THE
ONGC MAY RECONSIDER ITS EARLIER DECISION TO POSTPONE EXPLORATION
AND MIGHT EVEN STEP-UP THE PACE OF OIL DRILLING OPERATIONS IN
THE STATE.SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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